

North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service
Minutes of Meeting October 27, 2014

The North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service met via conference call on October 27, 2014 at 3:00 P.M.

Those present were: Dale G. Niewoehner, Jeffrey Brose, Dr. Terry Dwelle, and Gregory Everson. Attorney Nathan Martindale was also present.

President Everson called the meeting to order at 3:00P.M.

The agenda order was not followed because Dr. Dwelle could only be at the meeting until 4:00 P.M.

The first item to be considered was the application for licensure by Patrick Askew. Brose moved that the license be granted and seconded by Niewoehner. After a lively discussion, Mr. Martindale informed the Board that the license could not be granted at this time because Mr. Askew has not had his Minnesota license for one year. However, if the Code changes are approved on schedule, the license could be granted in January, 2015. The motion and second were withdrawn.

The application for licensure by the Red River Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Service and the Valley Cremation Service of West Fargo was discussed. Niewoehner informed the Board that several of the necessary items required for lawful operation are not in place at this time. The Board concluded that the licenses should not be granted until all required equipment documents and programs are in place.

Dr. Dwelle led a discussion on Ebola. He said that the North Dakota Health Department is working on necessary legislation to grant the State Health Officer wider authority regarding the disposition of persons who die of Ebola. Niewoehner informed the Board that an insert is being included in the annual license renewal regarding information about Ebola. Brose made a motion to direct the State Health Department to provide continued updates regarding Ebola to the Board's website. Seconded by Niewoehner and carried. Niewoehner will also add other information regarding the safe handling of Ebola deaths.

The minutes of the June 25, 2014 meeting were approved by a motion from Brose and seconded by Dwelle and carried.

The printed financial report was reviewed by the members of the Board and approved by a motion from Brose and seconded by Dwelle and carried.

Dr. Dwelle left the meeting at this time.

Old Business:

Niewoehner reviewed the current status of the Administrative Code changes that the Board has submitted for action. Following the last meeting, the required packet of materials was sent to the Attorney General for review. On October 21st, the Attorney General gave an opinion that the material was within the law. On October 24th, Niewoehner sent a letter and other documents to the Legislative Council for their review. The next step will be that the Council will review the proposal and hopefully approve the changes. If it is approved at a proposed December meeting, the changes would take effect on January 1, 2015.

New Business:

Niewoehner presented to the Board the name of Margaret A. Gist # 1294 (8 July 2014), Victor M. Sweeney # 1295 (4 September 2014), Melissa L. Peterson # 1296 (27 September 2014), and Matie M. Thompson # 1297 (14 October 2014) for licensure as funeral practitioners. He presented the names of Robert S. Olson II #594 (16 July 2014), Paige P. Zietz #595 (4 September 2014), and Kirsten M. Heinrich # 596 (26 September 2014) as intern embalmers. He presented Everson-Coughlin Funeral Home # 164 (28 June 2014) (new owner), Stevenson Funeral Home #22 (6 September 2014) (new location), Brooks Funeral Home # 165 (5 September 2014) (new owner) for licensure. A motion was made by Niewoehner and seconded by Brose to approve this list of applicants. The motion carried.

Niewoehner informed the Board that shortly before the meeting began he had received a telephone call regarding an application for a crematorium opening in Devils Lake.

The Board discussed a model right of disposition law that had been provided to them. Upon review by the Board attorney the Board will submit this legislation into the coming session by a motion by Niewoehner and seconded by Brose. The motion carried.

Niewoehner informed the Board that two recent applicants for intern program are lacking college credits.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale G. Niewoehner, Secretary

